

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 NEA-11 EA-11 SCI-06 DRC-01 /234 W

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R 131830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02004

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: ECON, EEC

SUBJECT: BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS REVERSE PREFERENCES
IN NORTH AFRICA

REF: BRUSSELS 829

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY IN
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CHARGE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, FOREIGN AND COMMON-

WEALTH OFFICE (BUTLER), FEBRUARY 13, WE ASKED ABOUT BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS "TRADE RECIPROCITY" IN EC-MAGHREBIAN RELATIONS. BUTLER SAID THAT, AS WE DOUBTLESS WERE AWARE, THE THREE NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAD IN EFFECT BEEN ASKED BY EC TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO EXTEND REVERSE PREFERENCES TO EC. HE SPECULATED THAT THE FRENCH WERE ACTIVELY TRYING TO MAKE A CASE FOR REVERSE PREFERENCES USING ARGUMENTS WITH WHICH WE WERE FAMILIAR. HE SAID BRITISH EMBASSIES IN RABAT, ALGIERS AND TUNIS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPLAIN U.K. VIEWS AS FOLLOWS. FIRST, THEY ARE TO REMIND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE THREE COUNTRIES THAT THEY ARE PARTIES TO THE OAU DECLARATION WHICH OPPOSED REVERSE PREFERENCES. SECOND, THEY ARE TO SAY THAT IT IS THE VIEW OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT BENEFITS TO BE EXTENDED TO THE NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT DEPEND ON THE GRANT OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

2. BRITISH BELIEVE THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT IS THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO YIELD TO FRENCH ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF EXTENSION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF EMBASSIES IN RABAT AND TUNIS AND USINT ALGIERS ASCERTAINED FROM BRITISH EMBASSIES HOW UK DEMARCHE WAS RECEIVED, AND, DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL SITUATION, REMINDED THESE THREE GOVERNMENTS OF U.S. POSITION ON REVERSE PREFERENCES.

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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